

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows.

1. (Currently Amended) A hand operated utility cart comprising:
a platform having a front end, a back end, and defining an upper surface and a lower surface, the upper surface comprising a load supporting surface;

a longitudinal handle extending in a longitudinal direction from the platform, parallel to a longitudinal axis of the load supporting surface, the longitudinal handle having a distal end and a proximal end relative to the platform;

a transverse handle extending transversely [from] at the distal end of the longitudinal handle;

wheel supports extending downwardly from the platform [lower plane];

a respective wheel rotatably mounted to each wheel support, each wheel mounted for the cart to travel in the longitudinal direction [, the wheels at least partially located beneath the platform lower plane]; and

wherein the transverse handle comprises a bent handle bar assembly comprising a bent transverse member extending transversely in opposing diverging lateral directions at the distal end of the longitudinal handle allowing a longitudinal axis of the longitudinal handle and a load on the cart to remain in a substantially horizontal position during operation when being in motion by a user.

2. (Currently Amended) The cart of Claim 1, further comprising a kick stand allowing for a free standing, horizontally level cart; and a hand braking system; wherein the transverse handle further comprises a curved handle bar assembly allowing the longitudinal axis of the longitudinal handle and the load on the cart to remain in a substantially horizontal position during operation when being in motion by a user [;].

3. (Currently amended) The cart of Claim 2, wherein the hand braking system comprises a locking hand braking system and the kick stand comprises a modified flattened bracket; a welded stop for single directional operation; a spring; and a washer slipped between the spring and the bracket for added tension.

4. (Currently Amended) The cart of Claim 1, the transverse handle further comprising a curved handle bar assembly comprising [of] a threaded aperture; plus a bicycle handle.

5. (Cancelled)

6. (Currently Amended) The cart of Claim 1, wherein there is at most one longitudinal handle ~~the wheel supports each comprise a bicycle fork assembly, wherein a first end of each fork assembly is connected to the lower surface of the platform in proximity to a respective side end of the platform; the second end of each fork assembly being able to reasonably attach a wheel.~~

7. (Currently Amended) The cart of Claim 6, wherein the wheels are at least partially located beneath the platform ~~each bicycle fork is attached to the platform by a respective hinge so that each fork can pivot to fold alongside the platform.~~

8. (Original) The cart of Claim 1, wherein the wheels are entirely located beneath the platform lower surface.

9. (Currently Amended) The cart of Claim 1, further comprising a locking hand braking system and a kickstand extending downwardly from the longitudinal handle.

10. (Currently Amended) The cart of Claim 1, further comprising a locking hand braking system and a kickstand mounted to the longitudinal [member] handle comprising a mount attached to the longitudinal [member] handle and a movable extension member movable from an extended position at which it extends downwardly [a given distance] from the longitudinal handle to an unextended position away from the extended position.

11. (Currently Amended) The cart of Claim 1, further comprising a locking

hand braking system and a kickstand mounted to the longitudinal [member] handle comprising a mount attached to the longitudinal [member] handle and a pivotable extension member pivotable from an extended position at which it extends downwardly from the longitudinal handle to an unextended position at which it is substantially lying alongside the longitudinal member.

12. (Original) The cart of Claim 1, wherein the platform upper surface is flat.

13. (Original) The cart of Claim 1, wherein the platform upper surface is concave to have a concave transverse cross-section and a concave longitudinal cross-section.

14. (Original) The cart of Claim 1, wherein the platform upper surface has a concave shaped transverse cross-section.

15. (Original) The cart of Claim 1, wherein no members extend upwardly from the platform upper surface.

16. (Currently Amended) The cart of Claim 1, further comprising a respective brake for at least two said wheels and a locking hand brake control for activating at least one of the brakes, said hand brake control attached to the transverse handle.

17. (Currently Amended) The cart of Claim 1–16, wherein the brake control comprises a brake handle attached to the transverse handle, the brake handle attached to a cable, the cable being functionally attached to at least one of the brakes.

18. (Currently Amended) The cart of Claim 1–16, wherein the brake control comprises a brake handle attached to the transverse handle, the brake handle attached to a cable, the cable being functionally attached to the brakes.

19. (Currently Amended) The cart of Claim 1, wherein the transverse handle comprises a U-shape portion having two opposed ends and [opposes] opposed transverse handle portions extending from each end of the U-shaped portion.

20. (Currently Amended) The cart of Claim 1, wherein [the platform upper surface is flat and] when the platform upper surface [is parallel to the ground] and longitudinal handle are horizontal, the transverse handle has an uppermost portion about 5 to about 12 inches higher [above the ground] than the platform upper surface.

21. (Original) The cart of Claim 1, wherein the platform upper surface is flat and the transverse handle has an uppermost portion about 5 to about 12 inches above the surface in which the platform upper surface lies.

22. (Original) The cart of Claim 1, wherein the platform upper surface is flat and the transverse handle has an uppermost portion about 6 to about 8 inches above the plane in which the platform upper surface lies.

23. (Currently Amended) The cart of Claim 1, wherein the platform has a length of about 30 to 52 inches, a width of about 20 to about 36 inches and, when the platform lower surface is horizontal, the platform lower surface is about 12 to about 30 inches above [the ground] a lowermost surface of the wheels.

24. (Currently Amended) The cart of Claim 1, wherein the wheel supports are comprise U-shaped forks, and there are no elements of the cart between the wheel supports in a space of from ground level to a height of at least about 50% of the height of the platform lower surface above the ground level.

25. (Currently Amended) The cart of Claim 1, wherein the wheel supports are comprise U-shaped forks, and there are no elements of the cart between the wheel supports in a space of from ground level to a height of at least about 75% of the height of the platform lower surface above the ground level.

26. (Canceled)

27. (Currently Amended) A hand operated utility cart comprising:
a platform having a front end, a back end, and defining an upper surface and a lower surface;

a handle comprising a longitudinal handle member extending in a longitudinal direction from the platform, the longitudinal handle having a distal end and a proximal end relative to the platform and a transverse handle member extending transversely [from] in opposing diverging lateral directions at the distal end of the longitudinal handle member;

wheel supports extending downwardly from the platform lower surface;

a respective wheel rotatably mounted to each wheel support, each wheel mounted for the cart to travel in the longitudinal direction; and

a respective brake for at least two said wheels and a brake control attached to the transverse handle for activating at least one of the brakes, wherein the hand brake control comprises a locking brake control;

further comprising a kickstand mounted to the longitudinal handle allowing for a free standing, substantially horizontally level cart.

28. (New) The cart of Claim 27, wherein there is at most one longitudinal handle.

29. (New) The cart of Claim 27, comprising dual brakes and the brake control comprises a hand braking system comprising a single hand brake for operating the dual brakes; a cable mount located under the longitudinal handle; and a 'Y' cable system utilizing two cables functionally connecting the single hand brake to operate dual brakes, said hand brake attached to the transverse handle member.

30. (New) The cart of Claim 27, wherein the wheels are at least partially located beneath the platform lower surface.

31. (New) The cart of Claim 1, wherein the platform upper surface is flat and has transverse solid bars between the platform front end and the platform back end defining part of the upper surface and the lower surface.

32. (New) The cart of claim 1, wherein the bent handle bar assembly has a height "D" of about 5 to about 12 inches and a width "T" of about 12 to about 30 inches.

33. (New) The cart of claim 1, wherein the bent handle bar assembly has a height "D" of about 6 to about 8 inches and a width "T" of about 12 to about 30 inches.

34. (New) The cart of claim 1, wherein the transverse handle comprises a curved handle bar assembly allowing the load on the cart to remain in a substantially horizontal position during operation when being in motion by a user.

35. (New) The cart of claim 34, wherein said curved handle bar comprises a U-shaped portion and two opposed handles extending from respective ends of the U-shaped portion.

36. (New) The cart of claim 1, wherein the transverse handle comprises a transverse portion and two opposed handles extending from said transverse portion, wherein said transverse portion extends from said distal end of the longitudinal handle, wherein a first of the two opposed handles extends from a first end of the transverse portion and a second of the two opposed handles extends from a second end of the transverse portion, wherein the first and second ends of the transverse portion are more distal to the distal end of the longitudinal handle than where said transverse portion extends from said distal end of the longitudinal handle.

37. (New) The cart of Claim 1, wherein the platform upper surface has a rigid upper surface.

38. (New) The cart of Claim 1, further comprising at most one kick stand allowing for a free standing; substantially horizontally level cart; and a locking hand braking system.

39. (New) The cart of Claim 38, wherein the kickstand is pivotably mounted to the longitudinal handle.